

Remarks

Claims 1-21 were pending in this application. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended herein, without prejudice. Claims 9-11 and 20 are being canceled herein without prejudice. Finally, new claims 22-29 have been added herein.

Rejection of Claims 1, 5, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 5 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 2,893,665 to Paulsen. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. For example, claim 1 includes a non-annular opening in the top wall, "the attachment member being movable laterally within the opening to provide selective positioning of the shipping pod relative to the large object among a plurality of positions." Paulsen on the other hand discloses a central hole which does not provide for the lateral movement or selective positioning of the shipping pod relative to a large object.

Per the Examiner's suggestion, Claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the language of claim 20, and this rejection with regard to claim 19 is thus moot. Finally, claim 5 is believed to be in a condition for allowance based on its dependency from independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance with respect to these claims.

Rejection of Claims 2-4, 6 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2-4, 6, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Paulsen reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,051,787 to Nishitani et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. There is no express suggestion for combining these references. Moreover, the motivation is not found to combine Paulsen's compressible device which is fastened to the bottom of a machine, with Nishitani's free-standing non-compressible plastic pallet. Further, these claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance based on their dependency from their respective independent claims.

Allowed Claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 12-18 are allowed.

New Claims

New claim 22 substantially incorporates the subject matter of claims 1 and 8, as suggested by the Examiner. It is believed that this new claim 22, and its dependent claims 23-26, are in a condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the application, and respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the above amendments and remarks. Applicants believes that the claims are now in a condition for allowance, and a notice of such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that a phone interview would help to expedite the allowance of this case, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at his convenience.

A check in the amount of \$ 920 is enclosed to cover the Petition fee. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 50-1980.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with markings to show changes made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A stackable shipping pod adapted for use on a relatively large object having a bottom surface with a plurality of bores therein, each bore for receiving [a threaded] an attachment member, and further having an outside perimeter, the shipping pod comprising:

a top wall for mating to the bottom surface of the large object, the top wall having at least one non-annular opening through which the [threaded] attachment member is extended for attaching the shipping pod to the large object, the attachment member being movable laterally within the opening to provide selective positioning of the shipping pod relative to the large object among a plurality of positions; and

a perimeter wall extending downwardly [and outwardly] from the top wall, the perimeter wall having exterior surface [facing away from the top wall] and an interior surface [facing inward],

wherein the interior surface of the shipping pod nests proximate to the exterior surface of a second subjacent shipping pod when in a stacked orientation.

19. (Amended) A stackable shipping pod for use on a relatively large object having a bottom surface with a plurality of bores therein, each bore for receiving a threaded member, the large object further having an outside perimeter, the shipping pod comprising:

a planar upper wall member having an upper surface for mating with the bottom surface of the large object, the upper wall member having an opening through which the threaded member is extended; and

a sidewall member wall extending downwardly from the periphery of the upper wall member, the sidewall member and upper wall member defining a compartment therebetween, the sidewall member having a double-wall construction comprising an inner wall member and outer wall member spaced apart from each other,

wherein in a stacked orientation, the compartment of the shipping pod receives therein the upper wall of a second shipping pod.

21. (Amended) The shipping pod of claim 19 wherein the upper wall member includes at least one anti-slip member adapted to contact the bottom surface of the [vending machine] large object and prevent rotation of the shipping pod.

22. (New) A stackable shipping pod adapted for use on a relatively large object having a bottom surface with a plurality of bores therein, each bore for receiving an attachment member, and further having an outside perimeter, the shipping pod comprising:

a top wall for mating to the bottom surface of the large object, the top wall having at least one opening through which the attachment member is extended for attaching the shipping pod to the large object;

a perimeter wall extending downwardly and outwardly from the top wall, the perimeter wall having an exterior surface and an interior surface; and

an outer perimeter wall extending upwardly and outwardly from the perimeter wall, wherein the interior surface of the shipping pod nests proximate to the exterior surface of a second subjacent shipping pod when in a stacked orientation.

23. (New) The shipping pod of claim 22 wherein the outer perimeter wall extends beyond the outside perimeter of the relatively large object.

24. (New) The shipping pod of claim 22 wherein the outer perimeter wall includes a handle portion for handling the shipping pod.

25. (New) The shipping pod of claim 22 further comprising a bottom wall connecting the perimeter wall and the outer perimeter wall.

26. (New) The shipping pod of claim 22, wherein the at least one opening of the top wall has an elongated shape in which the attachment member is movable for providing selective positioning of the shipping pod relative the large object.

27. (New) The shipping pod of claim 12, wherein the opening of the top wall has an elongated shape in which the threaded member is movable for providing selective lateral positioning of the shipping pod relative the vending machine.

28. (New) The shipping pod of claim 19, wherein the opening of the upper wall member has an elongated shape in which the threaded member is movable for providing selective lateral positioning of the shipping pod relative to the large object.

29. (New) The shipping pod of claim 1, wherein the perimeter wall also extends outwardly from the top wall